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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/980,199

Examiner

Isaac N. Hamilton

Applicant(s)

NEULAND ET AL.

Art Unit

3724

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/07/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/30/01</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings were received on 02/07/06. These drawings are acceptable.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, Mr. Paul Lewis on 05/15/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7, line 18, "by a vacuum" has been changed to --by only a--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims define a process which draws a web of material from a take-up mandrel, then conveys the web through a multiple circular knife roll using a vacuum roll which cuts the web into strips, then turns each individual strip by 90 degrees on the way through or on its way to a vacuum conveyor channel. After the strip leaves the vacuum conveyor channel the strips are allowed to lie one upon the other creating a stack, after which, the stacked strips are conveyed to a transverse cutter. Katz et al (4,939,888) teach a process which draws a web of material from a take-up mandrel roll which cuts the web through a multiple circular knife roll, then turns each individual strip by 90 degrees

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and are allowed to lie one upon the other creating a stack, after which the stacked strips are conveyed to a transverse cutter, but do not teach a vacuum conveyor channel and do not teach a vacuum roll. Grupe (1,980,400) teaches drawing a web of material from a take-up mandrel, then conveying the web through a multiple circular knife roll which cuts the web into strip, then turns each individual strip by 90 degrees and allowed to lie one upon the other creating a stack, after which the stacked strips are conveyed to a transverse cutter, but does not teach a vacuum conveyor channel and does not teach a vacuum roll. Schmidt (3,192,845) and Phillips (4,113,247) teach a vacuum conveyor channel. Pohjola (5,224,405) teaches a vacuum roll. Crum (3,556,509) teaches a process which draws a web of material and conveys it through a multiple circular knife roll which cuts the web into strips, then turns each individual strip by 90 degrees, after which each strip is allowed to lie upon one another creating a stack and the stack is conveyed to a transverse cutter, but does not teach a vacuum roll, and does not teach a vacuum conveyor channel. It would not have been obvious to combine the references in order to meet the claim limitations because the web of material is conveyed from the vacuum roll and circular knife roll only by negative vacuum pressure from the vacuum conveyor channel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac Hamilton whose telephone number is 571-272-4509. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer D. Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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May 15, 2006

  
KENNETH E. PETERSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER